

COUNCILLOR'S PLAN TRIGGERS PROTEST

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Villagers oppose ambitious plans for farm complex

By John Slater

AMBITIOUS development plans for a farm complex owned by West Dorset District Council member Mr. Jim Atyeo have triggered a storm of protest at Thorncombe, near Bridport.

The 60-year-old vice-chairman of the council's Western Area Planning Sub-Committee has been accused of misleading fellow parish councillors and proposing a scheme that would be detrimental to the village.

He is hoping to win outline planning consent for 26 houses, craft workshops, the conversion of

Thorncombe was in an area of outstanding Natural Beauty and felt the scheme would be detrimental to the scale, character and way of life of the village.

They also wanted West Dorset Council to defer a decision until after they had had the chance to see more details.

The village gathering was followed by a parish council meeting, where members recommended rejection of the application because they felt —

- the scheme would be overdevelopment, out of scale and in the wrong part of the village
- on a green field site outside the village limits
- in a designated area of outstanding Natural Beauty
- the holiday accommo-

ferred for further details; claimed Mr. Atyeo had misled them when he told them about the proposed development at their meeting on February 12.

Mr. Atyeo, who did not attend either the parish gathering or the latest council meeting, denied the allegation.

"I did not mislead them," he told the Echo.

"I did not have to tell them anything but I gave details out of goodwill."

He said conversion of the farmhouse — once the village workhouse — would not alter the building's appearance.

Mr. Atyeo, a committee member of the West Dorset Rural Development

ed, he might sell the site or develop it himself.

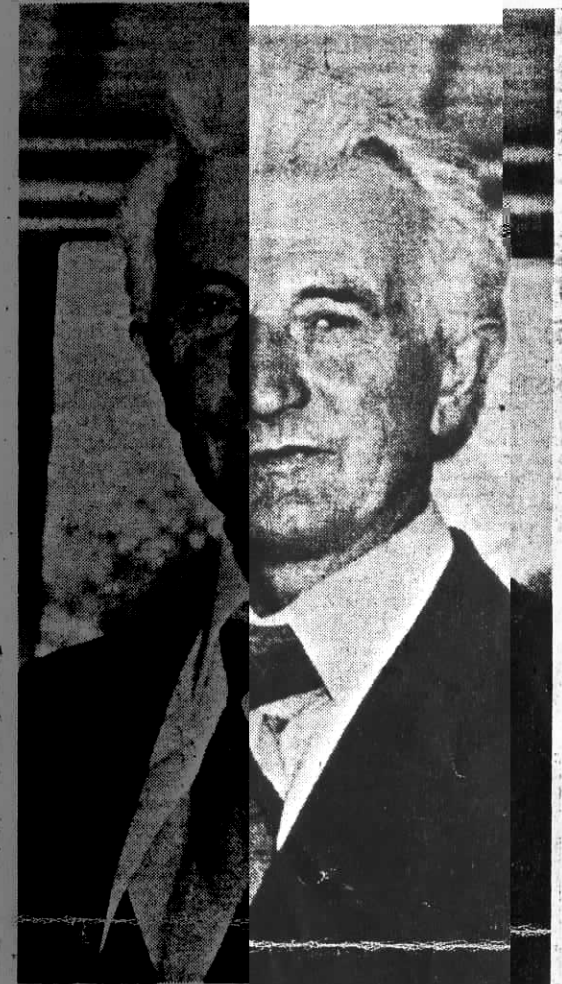
"I have no builder in mind and, if I sold the land, it would be advertised and go to the highest bidder."

Area Planning Officer, Mr. Derek Price said the application, submitted by Mr. Atyeo's agent, Bridport Surveyor, Mr. Michael Fearn, had brought more than a dozen written objections in one day's post alone.

DECISION

He explained there would have to be consultations with the Water Authorities over land drainage and sewerage and with the County Surveyor regarding proposed access arrangements.

"The application will be



Running into trouble: Jim Atyeo, "I wish I had never thought of it."

Jim

